

I would also like to recognize all the other participants in this year 18th Congressional District High School Art Competition, An Artistic Discovery. I would like to thank these vibrant young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination and creativity. The efforts of these students are no less than spectacular.

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE FOR TAIWANESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, each May, our nation pauses to recognize the enormous contributions that Pacific Islanders and Americans of Asian descent have made to our country. One week of this month long celebration, the week following Mother's Day, is designated as Taiwanese-American Heritage Week. This observance offers us the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of the Taiwanese-American population throughout the United States, and celebrate its rich and unique cultural heritage.

There are currently over 10 million Americans of Asian descent in the United States, 500,000 of whom are Taiwanese Americans. In Wisconsin, our Asian-American population has grown statewide to nearly 89,000, with over 25,000 located in Milwaukee County alone.

The Taiwanese-American community in the United States places strong emphasis on the importance of education. Over 40% of its population consists of college graduates, many with advanced degrees. Americans of Taiwanese descent have made significant contributions in all walks of life, including the arts, sciences, and the humanities. In fact, the 1986 winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Dr. Lee Yuan-tse, is a Taiwanese American.

The Taiwanese-American community in Milwaukee has also made important contributions to the quality of life in our community. This week, Milwaukee-area residents are being given the opportunity to learn more about the Taiwanese American people, its food, culture and history at the Taiwanese-American Heritage Week festival sponsored by the Taiwanese-American Associations of Milwaukee & Madison, the Taiwanese Student Association of UW-Madison and the Formosan Association for Public Affairs-Wisconsin. I congratulate these organizations for their efforts to share their rich cultural heritage with our community, and extend my best wishes for a rewarding and successful day of festivities.

And, as we join in celebrating the traditions and culture of the Taiwanese-American community, let us also remember to cherish the diversity that is America, and the spirit of community that binds us together as a nation.

TRIBUTE TO NEW YORK VETERANS

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, most recent data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimate that roughly 23.6 million male and 1.2 million female veterans currently reside in the United States. Of which, 3,400 veterans served in World War I, 5.9 million in World War II, 4.1 million in the Korean Conflict, 8.1 million during the Vietnam era, 2.2 million during the Persian Gulf War era, and 5.8 million during peacetime.

New York State is home to over 1.4 million veterans, and some 4,600 veterans reside in Cortland County alone. Veterans from across the State of New York will be descending upon the Country Music Park in Truxton, New York on Sunday, May 20th to attend festivities recognizing their service to the American people.

As a Member of Congress representing Cortland County and Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs/HUD and Independent Agencies overseeing the funding of all federal veterans benefits and health services, I rise today to recognize the dedication these New York State veterans and their families have shown in service to our nation.

Americans of all ages owe a sincere debt of gratitude to the sacrifice of all veterans who have defended our country and preserved and protected the foundations of liberty and freedom both home and abroad. I anticipate that the event on May 20th will be a fitting tribute to their selfless service.

HONORING THE MUSIC MAN, DR. THOMAS HAMMETT—A REMARKABLE EDUCATOR

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an exceptional teacher in my district—Dr. Thomas Hammett. Dr. Hammett teaches chorus and drama at Lookout Valley High School and is also the Director of Music at Rivermont Presbyterian Church. I think it is particularly fitting to honor Dr. Hammett the same week we are debating H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Dr. Thomas Hammett has continually demonstrated character education in the classroom long before the term was ever coined. Many of his students believe he invented the phrase. Not only does he teach music; he teaches character, morals and how to live life.

He has made a significant difference in the lives of so many of his students. He teaches them that music can break down barriers in a way that nothing else can. It can break down prejudice and indifference and it crosses racial lines. Dr. Hammett is a man of Christ and is never afraid to demonstrate his faith despite

the consequences. Without his dedication many of his students wouldn't be where they are today.

I have heard from a number of Dr. Hammett's students and their words tell the story better than I could.

Rebekah Griffiths said,

"Dr. Hammett has made a huge difference in my life and I am a better person because of his example and teachings. I love him like a father and appreciate his listening ear, time and advice more than he will ever know."

Michael Langston states,

"Dr. Hammett has been an outstanding role model for me. He has taken many days out of his personal life to help me succeed in chorus. I don't know many teachers who would take a single student to All-State auditions and performances."

I am proud to have him teaching in my district. Keep up the good work Dr. Hammett—you are a perfect example of why character education works and a role model for other teachers who dedicate their lives to teaching America's children. I commend you and your wife, Faye, and your four daughters, Charity, Emily, Stephanie and Rosalie.

ATTACKS ON PLACES OF WORSHIP IN THE BALKANS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, news reports from Bosnia and Kosovo earlier this month give reason to despair.

First, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, about 30 people were injured and property was damaged during riots in the "Republika Srpska" cities of Trebinje on May 5 and Banja Luka on May 7. Islamic leaders, Bosnian officials and representatives of the international community were attacked during ceremonies to lay the first stones of mosques being rebuilt where mosques destroyed by Serb militants in 1993 once stood.

We remember well, hundreds of mosques were destroyed during the war as part of the genocidal campaign of ethnic cleansing. The apparent purpose was to erase the cultural vestiges of the Bosniac population which was terrorized and forced to flee. It was not uncommon for the local ethnic Serbs subsequently to deny a mosque had ever existed, once the rubble had been cleared away. The famous Ferhadija mosque in Banja Luka built in 1583 was blown to bits on May 7, 1993. The ceremony exactly eight years later was the culmination of persistent efforts, including the Helsinki Commission which I co-chair, to get Republika Srpska leaders to permit the reconstruction of destroyed mosques, which they finally did this year.

The riots last week demonstrate the continued intolerance in the region. Moreover, while Bosnian Serb officials have officially condemned the incidents, there are indications that both the Trebinje and Banja Luka events were orchestrated and perhaps linked. In Trebinje, the police force seemed simply to be not adequate. In Banja Luka, though, some